

Ripon 2030 – Realising the Vision

In last month's column we outlined our approach and our draft policy for the redevelopment of the Claro and Deverell Barracks site. The redevelopment of the site is a huge opportunity and we believe that the approach that we are suggesting could be of benefit to the whole City.

However, whilst regenerating the Barracks site is undoubtedly a key part of the City Plan it is only one of our policies and it is not the only opportunity to make improvements to the City. Within the draft Ripon City Plan there are 58 other policies and over 20 complementary projects, addressing a wide range of different issues.

You may recall that the first City Plan public consultation asked the question, "How could Ripon be better for you?" and all of our proposals, policies and projects start from the key issues that many of you identified in response to that consultation.

So, looking at the draft Ripon City Plan as a whole, we believe that it presents a comprehensive long-term plan for the City to develop over the next 15 years, which has the potential to make Ripon a better place. If, by working with developers and businesses and the public sector all of the potential we have identified was fulfilled, we believe that between 2015 and 2030, amongst other achievements the City would benefit from:

Economic Growth – in excess of 700 new jobs could be created in business premises located on the new sites we have identified as employment areas at Hutton Bank, Ripon by-pass (off the Dallamires Lane / Littlethorpe Road roundabout) and Harrogate Road and on derelict and under-utilised land and premises within our regeneration areas at Claro and Deverell Barracks, Bondgate Green and Ure Bank and in the city centre.

City Centre Growth – a new large scale retail development on Moss Arcade / Victoria Grove home to High Street names and independent shops alike, could offer more comparison retailing (e.g. fashion, jewellery) and food and drink / leisure served by additional car parking. A number of smaller development schemes could bring back into use vacant and derelict premises including more residential and office uses on upper floor premises. Overall, a rejuvenated City Centre offer which has made Ripon the meeting place of choice could be attracting people to Ripon from a wide catchment.

Tourism Growth – at least one new hotel being built as part of the Bondgate Green or Ure Bank regeneration areas with sufficient bed-spaces to enable coach tours to stay in the City, together with investment in improvements to and expansion of existing hotels would be a major boost to the tourism sector. Major investments in new facilities at the Cathedral enhancing its role as a visitor attraction and increasing the number of visitors coming to enjoy our unique and historic City could significantly boost the vitality and viability of both the daytime and the evening economy.

Housing Growth – up to 1,500 new dwellings could be developed between 2015 and 2030 in appropriate locations within the City's built up areas, served by appropriate new community facilities and infrastructure. This includes approximately 250 homes which at

2016 have already been granted planning permission but construction has not yet started; up to 1,000 as part of the creation of Clotherholme village on the Barracks sites; and up to 250 on smaller sites, the Bondgate Green regeneration area and our proposed housing sites, which includes the Cathedral Choir School site. Any housing at Mallorie Park Drive / Studley Road to facilitate the new link road would be additional to this.

Community Facilities Growth – new facilities including education facilities, health and leisure provision and sport and recreation facilities as part of Clotherholme village. New sport and recreation facilities developed at the Camp Close Leisure Centre including a relocated swimming pool. Improved infrastructure to better serve the residents of Ripon and better connect the City for those on foot, cycles, in cars and those with mobility impairments.

Sustainable Growth – all of the above would be achieved whilst offering better protection to the City's environmental, cultural, and heritage assets and ensuring that they can be enjoyed by addressing the visual amenity of things which have a negative impact.

If all of that potential were to be achieved, and we are under no illusions that it will only be achieved through a lot of work and commitment by people and organisations working together then we believe that the City Plan will have achieved what it set out to do and Ripon would have a bright future.

If you require any further information, please visit our website: www.riponcityplan.com or contact the Ripon City Plan Team: cityplan@riponcity.gov.uk or call (01765) 604097.